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The Honorable Robert G. Torricelli
U.S. Senate
113 Dirksen Senate Office Bldg.
Washington, DC 20510-0001

Dear Senator Torricelli:

I must tell you that I am very much offended over the debate in congress over the tobacco legislation. Lawmakers insist that it is important to prevent kids from smoking and that money is not the issue. If money is not the issue, than why is congress trying to extort half a trillion dollars from the tobacco industry by raising taxes on tobacco products? And by the way, the tobacco industry, like all other industries, do not pay taxes. The consumers will pay every penny of that half a trillion dollars. In addition, it has been stated, that kids start smoking because of the advertising they see and the self service tobacco displays they are exposed to in the convenience stores.

I can't understand how anyone could possibly believe that. Kids always seem to have the money to buy what ever they want. And if displays were that effective, more young people be practicing safe sex by purchasing condoms from the same stores that sell tobacco.

Illegal drug use by kids in this country is sky rocketing. Obviously they are not influenced by all of the bill boards on the highways, displays in retail stores or the low cost of cocaine.

Lets get to the real issue, getting kids not to smoke. From what I understand, that is only 2% of the smoking population. Please do not penalize the 98% of adults that enjoy tobacco products with taxes and harassment.

I would appreciate receiving response from you about your position on these issues.

Sincerely,

Rory O'Rourke

Rory O'Rourke

cc: President William Clinton

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